



## Quick Read

### In general

#### Memorial Day ceremonies

More than 260,000 American servicemen and servicewomen died in Europe during the two World Wars. For information about Memorial Day ceremonies at American Battle Monument Commission cemeteries in the area, see page 4.

#### CHRMA launches RPA Direct

The Civilian Human Resource Management Agency (CHRMA) is implementing "RPA Direct" to further improve personnel procedures for managers and commanders. See page 6.

### Belgium

#### Army Ball 2003

You are invited to celebrate the Army's 228th birthday, June 14, 6 p.m., at the SHAPE Officer's Club. Contact your unit representative for ticket information. Child care will be available at the SHAPE CDC.

#### Culture celebrated

The SHAPE military community observes Asian Pacific American Heritage month with food tasting and cultural dances May 20, 11:30 a.m., at the PX on Chièvres Air Base.

#### Discussion scheduled

An overview of Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder is scheduled May 23, noon-1 p.m., in NSA Fellowship Hall. Join Dr. Ken Gilman, clinical psychologist at EDIS, in a discussion for parents of ADHD children and have your questions answered about medication, effective discipline, and other concerns. Registration required by May 21. Info: +32 (0)2 717-9693.

#### Contest planned

The Mystery Bowl II is at SHAPE Pizza Bowl, June 1-July 31. Contestants receive an entry form each time a purchase is made at the Pizza Bowl bowling center or snack bar. Nine weekly prize drawings will be held each Sunday at 3 p.m., starting June 8. Info: 423-5697 or 423-5696.

### Netherlands and Germany

#### Survey encouraged

Military members with dependents in the Schinnen, Brunssum, Eysgelshoven and Rotterdam communities are asked to complete an electronic Cost of Living Allowance Living Pattern Survey. The survey can be found at <http://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/netherlands> or <http://141.116.74.201/oscola/lps/Netherlands>. For more information contact the local personnel administrator.

## Inside

Special Needs create special programs  
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Straight shootin' in The Netherlands  
*See page 5.*

On track at SHAPE High School  
*See page 8.*

*Plus community calendars, events and much more*

# Meteor

Volume 21, Number 10

May 20, 2003

## May is a time to remember



and Belgian WW II veterans  
remember very well.

See page 4.





# Memorial Day holiday comes with concerns

A Memorial Day message from the Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Gen. B. B. Bell:

Commanders and Leaders:

Memorial Day commemorates the remembrance of America's fallen service members both past and present. The meaning of this holiday is intensified by our current commitment of USAREUR soldiers decisively engaged in or supporting combat and peacekeeping operations for our Nation in the war against terrorism.

This year, with so many of our soldiers deployed, the risks will be even greater. Memorial Day weekend historically starts the beginning of the summer season. During the 101 days of summer, Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, soldiers, civilians and family members are exposed to the greatest number of potential risks. Many of these

seemingly safe summer activities can turn fatal without proper planning and caution.

Leaders at all echelons and supervisors play a major role in preparing soldiers, civilian employees and family members to deal with the additional risks over the Memorial Day weekend and the summer vacation period. Leaders must engage soldiers and civilian employees on the primary hazards to ensure a safe holiday for everyone in the U.S. Army in Europe family. Commanders and supervisors will speak with soldiers and civilian employees to emphasize the need for increased awareness of hazards and management of risk. Rear detachment commanders will speak with family members and execute the risk assessment and counseling process for soldiers and subordinates.

Check to ensure that every countermeasure is taken to safeguard our soldiers, civil-

ians and families. Make awareness a key ingredient in your accident prevention toolbox. Information and tools are available on the USAREUR safety web page at: <http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil> <[HTTP://WWW.PER.HQUSAREUR.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.PER.HQUSAREUR.ARMY.MIL)>. Ensure all personnel receive a pre-holiday briefing on these critical points:



Gen. B. B. Bell

**Responsible Driving** - talk with subordinates about travel plans and encourage the use of leave for over-taxing distances, or the use of alternate transportation modes. Discuss the hazards of drinking and driving, proper trip planning to avoid fatigue and inattentiveness and al-

low sufficient time to reach destinations, taking into consideration traffic, weather and fre-

quent breaks to fight fatigue.

**Vehicle Safety** - use of safety belts and vehicle preparation in anticipation of warm weather conditions. Allow additional following distance in fog or rain and increase the 3-second separation.

**Emergency Contact Numbers and Ride Home Information** - ensure all personnel are aware of unit and community programs.

**Recreation Activities** - be prepared for outdoor recreation activities. Keep in mind authorized swimming areas, water safety and hot weather injuries.

I charge leaders to instill a sense of preparedness in our subordinates. Our rear detachments must be particularly focused to ensure effective command attention to this significant risk period. Success can only be defined as "No Loss of Life."

I wish each of you a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

ONPOINT!

General Bell

## Safety campaigns return for holiday weekend

The Army in Europe's "Click It or Ticket" and "Booze it, and Lose It" campaigns will be repeated during the upcoming Memorial Day holidays, law enforcement officials say.

"U.S. Military Police will intensively enforce drunk driving laws and seatbelt compliance on military installations and in housing areas at various times May 23-26," said Lt. Col. Kathleen Doran, Chief of Law Enforcement Operations at the USAREUR/IMA Office of the Provost Marshal.

Host nation police will also conduct off-post checks. "The aim is to prevent the deaths and serious injuries that result from people driving under the influence of alcohol or without seatbelts," she added.

In the first "Booze it, and Lose It" campaign over the Easter weekend, 22 soldiers, family members and government employees were apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol. Sixty-three percent of the apprehensions involved personnel under the age of 25, and half involved traffic accidents.

Figures from previous seatbelt campaigns indicate that many people have learned to "Buckle Up."

"We continue to see a downward trend," Doran noted.

The Easter campaign saw 21,241 vehicles checked with 126 citations issued to drivers and nine to passengers not wearing seatbelts. Soldiers in the ranks of private E-1 to

sergeant E-5 are still the largest group of offenders.

"We need to reduce the occurrence of accidents, and with the robust force protection efforts across the theater, drivers' odds of being cited for not wearing seatbelts or driving under the influence of alcohol are significantly increased," Doran said.

Stateside notifications are USAREUR's new weapon in the fight against drunk driving.

"The Provost Marshal will notify U.S. driver's license agencies when personnel cited for driving offenses involving alcohol lose their driving privileges for one year or more or refuse to submit to a blood-alcohol test," Doran explained.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Volunteers honored

Volunteer recognition ceremony, May 23, 8 p.m., at NSA Three Star Lounge.

### Hours added

Through May 28 the thrift shop will

also be open on Wednesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. in addition to normal hours - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### ACS

(02/717-9783)

Parent-toddler playgroup every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at NSA CYS; Advanced financial seminar every Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.; Active parenting workshop May 20-22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at NSA old sanctuary; Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder overview, by clinical psychologist Dr. Ken Gilman, May 23, noon-1 p.m., in NSA Fellowship Hall; Metro Madness outing May 28, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., meet at NSA ACS; Step families workshop June 3-5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at NSA old sanctuary.

### Brussels American School

Talent show, May 30, 7 p.m., in the school multi-purpose room.

### Youth Services

(02/717-9651 or 9647)

Aikido lessons every Tuesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at BAS racquetball court; Red Cross babysitters training with lifetime certification; May 31, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at NSA teen center, Building 3, \$25 fee; Summer camp registration is underway. Camp is June 16-Aug. 15; CYS Workforce Prep. classes for summer hire employees June 2, 5, 9, 12, 4-5:30 p.m.

### Three Star Lounge

Movie Night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:15 p.m.; Country Night and Chili Cook Off, May 31, 8 p.m.

### Outdoor Recreation Trips

(02/717-9775 or 0474 683 544) Paris Trip, May 31, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., adults Euro 35, children Euro 29

### Multi-craft Shop

(02/717-9629)

Ceramic Classes every Wednesday; Framing Classes every Thursday, 3 and 6 p.m.; Basket Weaving every Thursday, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Engraving and art restoration services are also available

### Sports and Fitness

(02/717-9652 or 9667)

Aerobic classes Mondays, 11:15 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. Six classes for \$25, or \$5 per class.

### Volunteers needed

Patriotism will be at its finest on Friday, July 4th at the Brussels American School Sterrebeek from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. with the annual NSA 4th of

### July Celebration

The Celebration Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan now and work the day of the celebration. Anyone wishing to participate can contact Lisa Passalacqua at 02 717-9639 or e-mail [Lisa.Passalacqua@benelux.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.Passalacqua@benelux.army.mil)

### Vacation Bible School

Brussels American Chapel hosts Vacation Bible School June 16-20, 5-7:30 p.m., in the chapel at NATO Support Activity.

This year the theme is "Crusin' the Amazing Amazon".

Children ages 2 years through the 6th grade are encouraged to attend and explore the gallery that God has created for them.

There will be arts and crafts, games and a puppet show.

We are also looking for junior high, high school and adult volunteers to help in the classroom, with games, arts, crafts and games. If you are interested please contact the Brussels American Chapel.

For more information or to sign up for VBS come by the chapel office or call DSN 368-9677 or commercial 02 717 9677.

# Parents with Special Needs children get services going

## Compelling family needs can create a legacy of care for those who follow

By Rick Haverinen

The international military community in SHAPE observed Month of the Military Child and Women's History Month by examining the lives of disabled children in military families, and those who promote their welfare.

The annual observances set in April culminated in a luncheon program April 29 at the SHAPE Officer's Club.

The chosen theme, "Exceptional Women: Pioneering the Future for Military Children," combined the two observances into a single program. The organizing committee chose Diane Jones as keynote speaker. She is the wife of U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. It would not be unusual in any military community to invite the spouse of a senior leader to speak at such a function, but extra significance was layered onto this particular presentation because the Joneses are parents of a disabled adult daughter, Jennifer, who was born with Fragile X Syndrome.

### Calling becomes necessity

"I guessed I looked at (the advocacy for Jennifer) in the sense of it being a calling, and then when I went back for my master's (degree in special education,) I realized that it was really a necessity," Jones said. "I think that's what happens for all of us, as far as pioneering the future, the women or men. The necessity is one of advocacy, a single voice, and trying to ensure that things will go as you hope they would go for your beloved."

Jones cited a list of specific improvements in the Marine Corps' Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP,) that resulted during the period she campaigned for disabled children and their families within that military service. Much of that work was when her husband was Marine Corps Commandant. However, Jones on several occasions reminded the audience that she did not do the work on her own, but that she was part of a well-organized and committed group of family members, teachers, and other advocates throughout the Corps.

"With lot of dedicated people who love, a lot of things can happen," Jones said.

### Whole family is exceptional

Although many of the gains in the Marine Corps' EFMP program helped disabled children, a number of them focus on the whole "exceptional family" as a unit.

"The Marine Corps EFMP was enhanced for the purpose of offering a little extra help to these families," Jones said, "and that means you're not handing people things that are unique. You're not doing things for them that you wouldn't otherwise want to do for everyone. You're giving them the tools that are needed to enable them to fulfill their military obligations and be able to enjoy the quality of life that their neighbors do."

As an example of a grassroots improvement made by advocates at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jones described how wheelchairs were bought so disabled family members could move about the installation's beach. Jones emphasized that it was organization that led to improvements.

"One of the things that really was the beginning of this tremendous effort was making the discovery of what's called, 'the committee for persons with disabilities,'" Jones said. "This committee was exceptional in the most positive way because (instead of) airing and complaining, what these family members, and disabled themselves did, was share with representatives of the base and the community in a very positive way. And what they made happen is pretty exemplary... So that fueled the fire and I had ammunition to pursue a cause which I thought was so important. Now all the major bases and installations of the Marine Corps have these committees."

### All needs should be met

Jones said that helping children with special needs should only be a part of a much greater campaign to help all people with unfulfilled needs.

"Whether encouraging young families as they balance the many demands of their energy and time or whether they're mentoring high school students as they prepare to set out into an uncertain future, everywhere we find needs, we find exceptional men and women who have the courage to act and those who step up and make a differ-

ence," Jones said. "Exceptionality comes in a variety of forms, but one aspect always shines through, and it's sincerity. You can see it on the faces of volunteers — all of you out there and those at the family support centers. You can see it in the caring touch of a swimming instructor in helping a child adapt to the water, and having actually swam over in the SHAPE pool, the instructors who work with the SHAPE Seals team are phenomenal. And they're certainly pioneering the future."

### Fame not important

Jones said the theme of "Women Pioneering the Future" wasn't about notoriety.

"To me, the heroes are the everyday moms, the young brides that are left behind when deployment comes, and it's the regular people like you, your devotion, your self sacrifice, and your willingness to take on projects when no one else will," Jones said, "and that takes courage — the courage to survive, to act and to make a difference, to effect change."

Jones cited several examples of people who saw an opportunity to help during a time of need and who followed through to provide assistance, such as localized responses to the Sept. 11, 2001 crisis. She also referred to a DoDDS principal in Heidelberg who created a special curriculum for her elementary school students to help them deal with the stress of parent deployments during the recent Iraq conflict.

### Celebrating the kids

Jones emphasized that all military children need and deserve special consideration from members of their communities.

"They're faced with many more stresses than most children who grow up in non-military families," Jones said. "They move frequently, often with little notice, and sometimes to places even their parents don't want to go to. They say goodbye to friends, and their favorite places to play. And then when they arrive at their new base, they're sometimes treated like outsiders and they've got to work to develop new relationships. When things finally seem to get back to normal, it's time to move again. But that's not just the stress of relocating, that



Photo courtesy of Exceptional Parent Magazine, July 2002 issue

**Gen. James Jones, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and commander of United States European Command, his daughter Jennifer and wife Diane pose last summer in Quantico, Va. for a cover photo of Exceptional Parent Magazine.**

impacts military children, they're faced with long separations from their parents as one or the other deploys or goes on assignments, sometimes for a year or more."

### Start with a vision

Jones concluded that her "15 minutes of fame" because of her advocacy for disabled children, "doesn't mean anything. It's the

ordinary person and what you can give. So 'women pioneering the future,' starts with vision, commitment, and it starts with you. The need is great and the reward is enormous. It's what you feel inside, (the commitment) for giving so much of yourself, whether you're a volunteer or whether you work professionally."





# Fifth Belgian Fusilier Bn. honors fallen on V-E Day



PHOTOS: Rick Haverhien



The U.S. forces color guard walks up the hill behind Mons city hall May 8 before the Fifth Fusilier Bn.'s ceremony for their own fallen.

Lt. Col. Jon Davis, commander of NATO Support Activity, and Camille Michel, chairman of the Mons Section of the Fifth Fusiliers Bn., lay a bouquet to honor fallen Americans May 8, V-E Day, at the monument for the U.S. 1st Infantry Div. in Mons. Watching the Belgian veterans is a lesson in patriotism. As the U.S. color guard was casing flags fol-

lowing an earlier ceremony at city hall for Belgians killed during WWII, participants and spectators enroute to the next ceremony paused respectfully as the flags were put away. Belgian vets risked death in the underground, fought alongside U.S. soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge, and now they honor Americans as well as their own.



Jean Lion shows the Fifth Belgian Fusiliers' U.S. 1st Army flag.

## Remember our heroes on Memorial Day

More than 260,000 American servicemen and servicewomen died in Europe during the two World Wars. Please spare an hour of your time to honor them. Memorial Day services are Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m., at Ardennes Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz and 4 p.m. at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Aubel/Hombourg; and Sunday, May 25, 3 p.m., at Flanders Field in Waregem, West Flanders. Other ceremonies are: Netherlands American Cemetery, in Margraten, Sunday, May 25, 3 p.m.; Luxembourg American Cemetery, south of the airport, between the towns of Hamm and Sandweiler, Saturday, May 24, 2 p.m.; Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m.



PHOTO: TASC Photo Lab, Caserne Daumerle



May 20, 2003

# 254th BSB Triborder news

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## Routine qualification produces good results

By Sandy Aubrey

**BUDEL, The Netherlands**—Soldiers from the 254th Base Support Bn. familiarized themselves in firing as they took to the ranges April 24-25 for weapons qualifications.

Working closely with the host nation Ministry of Defense, the 254th BSB soldiers qualified at a nearby Dutch military facility.

The U.S. Army requires semi-annual qualification on the M-16 and the 9 mm Beretta. The BSB holds ranges quarterly to ensure all personnel are properly trained, said Sgt. 1st Class John Hopper, the Provost Marshal's Office operations sergeant.

Doing well on their qualifications gives soldiers a sense of accomplishment and confidence, he said.

Twenty-two soldiers qualified and one soldier, Staff Sgt. Rob Lowe, scored a perfect 40 points after his turn at the target with the M-16 rifle.

After his perfect score, Lowe seemed very pleased and proud of himself.

"Just call me hawk-eye," Lowe joked.

The NCOIC of Task Force Borinquen, Sgt. Daniel Garcia, also did very well scoring 196 out of 200 on the 9mm Beretta.

"Fortunately we've not had to draw our weapons here, but it's very important to know your weapon, get familiar with it, and be comfortable firing it," Hopper said.

If a soldier didn't pass the qualification training, he or she would have trained-up with pre-marksanship instruction until they could qualify.



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

**Spec. Zachary Blake checks his equipment during M16-A2 rifle and 9mm pistol qualification April 24 and 25 at Budel, The Netherlands.**

## Volunteers make valuable gift to community

Tri-border community volunteers were honored April 29 at a ceremony at the Geilenkirchen Officers' Club. Over 100 registered volunteers were recognized with certificates, gifts and refreshments. Among the registered volunteers outstanding individuals were singled out in several categories for special recognition. Garret Stamm was selected Youth Volun-

teer of the Year, Linda Arnold-Orthman was recognized as Civilian Volunteer of the Year, the Military Volunteer of the Year was Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Houston, the Volunteer Family of the Year was the Soria family, Sponsor of the Year was Sgt. Ronald Haas and Family Member Volunteer of the Year went to Gina Loeffelman.

The Commander of the 254th Base Support Bn., Lt. Col. Deborah Broughton, thanked those gathered and told them the community was a much better place to live and work thanks to their selfless service. She said the volunteers' time represented a dollar equivalent gift of \$192,330.41 to the community.

## 254th BSB Local Calendar

### Thrift shop

The Schinnen Thrift Shop is now open every Saturday. Hours of operation are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Thursdays 1-3 p.m.

### Camps scheduled

School Age Services and Youth Services summer camp is June 23-Aug. 15. YS Water Sport Camp for children in grades 6 and up is June 30-July 4 and costs \$165. Call civ 45-526-3595.

### Kids read

The AFNorth Library's summer reading program, "Reading is Out of This World" is June 24-Aug. 17. Kids ages 3 and up can read for fun while earning prizes. Call 45-526-2669.

### Job available

The AFNorth International School has a job opening for a

part-time swimming instructor to start in August. Call 45-527-8221 for an application and interview.

### Community Events

•Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month with the 254th BSB May 28, 6:30 p.m. There will be food, entertainment and fun at the Schinnen Sports Center.  
•Mystery Bowl summer bowling promotion at the Schinnen Bowling Center is June 1-July 31. Call 46-443-7207.

•The HHC AFNorth Family Readiness Group is hosting a Fathers' Day picnic June 8, 1-4 p.m., at the company area. Volunteers and donations are needed, Call Tina Peyton at 045-527-5069 or Pan Slaught-ter at 045-572-6803.

•Windsurfing classes offered for all levels of expertise; call Hans-Dieter Scherer civ 045-579-0366.

•Join the lunchtime adult indoor soccer league, Tuesdays at noon, Schinnen Sports Center, civ 046-443-7561.

•The Breastfeeding Support Group meets May 28 and every fourth Wednesday, ACS Building 39, 1-2 p.m., civ 046-443-7335.

•Step aerobics, Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Spinning classes Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.; and Tae Bo classes Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Schinnen Sports Center.

### Girl Scout news

The Tri-border overseas Girl Scouts are looking for adult volunteers to fill various positions in the organization next year. They also need co-leaders for all age groups in all neighborhoods. Sign up now and get training, call Susan Morris at civ 45-532-4325.

### Travel deals from SATO

SATO Travel can plan a vacation for you to Greece, Portugal, Spain or Turkey leaving from Maastricht Airport.

**Youth and Teen activities**, civ 45-526-2033 or 0031-46-443-7280

•Torch Club dance May 23, 7-9:30 p.m., AFNorth Building H603. CYS members 6-8th grades only •5.

•"Smart Moves" program for girls grades 6-8, May 21 and 28, 4-5 p.m., Youth Services, civ 45-526-3595.

•Middle school and teens Photo Club meets every Friday, 4-6 p.m., at Youth Services in Brunssum. Info: 46-526-3595.

•Teen pool tournament June 2, 4-5:30 p.m., Youth Center, Brunssum, civ 45-526-3033.

•X-Box tournament for teens June 3, 4-5:30 p.m., Youth Center Brunssum, civ 45-526-3033.

### Classes and courses

Unless otherwise indicated, classes are in ACS Building 39 at Schinnen.

•Sponsorship training May 28 and every fourth Wednesday, 2-3 p.m., civ 46-443-7512.

•"Love and Logic Workshop, Part IV", May 21, 6 p.m., 46-443-7561.

•Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tuesday, "Finding Employment", 10 a.m.-noon, and "Hands on Resumix", 2-4 p.m.

•"Signs and Symbols of Child and/or Spouse Abuse," May 28, 2-4 p.m. Tri-border commanders can also schedule time for troop awareness briefings. Call DSN 360-7367.

•Army Family Team Building "Armed Forces 101", June 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., civ 0031-46-443-7451.

For more information about the 254th BSB  
Community check out the web page at [80asg.army.mil](http://80asg.army.mil)



## Two airmen killed in auto accident

Two airmen were killed early May 4 when the passenger car in which they were riding struck a tree on Rue de Ath in Brugelette. Air Force Staff Sergeant Rick Gentillali and Airman First Class Barry Newman, both stationed with 309th Airlift Squadron at Chièvres Air Base, died from their injuries. Host nation police believe driver fatigue was the cause of the accident. Both airmen were pronounced dead at the scene. A memorial service for the airmen was held May 8.

## Volunteers celebrated

The SHAPE military community thanked its legion of volunteers in a ceremony April 29 at SHAPE Officers Club.

Named Youth Volunteer of the Year was Patrick Hash, senior at SHAPE American High School.

International Volunteer of the Year was Robert Buerger, who worked over 500 hours at SHAPE Entertainment Center as a carpenter and electrician.

Volunteer Family of the Year was the team of Joan and Tom Scheide, who worked over 2,200 hours at SHAPE Entertainment Center. They're also active in church and worked on the Air Force Ball.

Military Volunteer of the Year was Staff Sgt. Angela Houston, who volunteers time for the BOSS program, in chapel, and she is also an elementary school mentor.

Volunteer of the Year was Jo Alexander-Grady for her work welcoming newcomers to Belgium, in the web office at Daumerie Chapel, at the SHAPE Christian Servicemen's Center, in family advocacy, and the outreach program. She and her husband are foster care providers. Alexander-Grady volunteered over 600 hours this past year.

## Youthful players stage skits

Fresh from a wonderful learning experience at DoDDS European Drama Fest, the SHAPE American High School Players are ready to tread the boards again with their spring comedy revue presentation, "Spring Cleaning—Air Out Your Winter Blues." Kristen Whitney, Sara Weber, Christine Handley, Lindsay Weber, Hayley Heineken, Jaime Killion, Meghan McCune, Jesse Joice, John Reynolds and Kacie Kappenman will be showing off their comedic sides with such skits as "Lady Marmalade", "Pastrami", "Dear Mother and Dad", Todd and Lisa on Prom Night", "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged", Angry Chemistry Teacher", and many other fast, fun, and furious skits. The AHS Players will also be reprising their Drama Fest Showcase Presentation of Rosemary Poole-Carter's "Mossy Cape" which is a skillful blending of the King Lear legend and the Cinderella fairy tale set in the bayous of Louisiana. At right, John Reynolds and Christine Handley perform a scene. Since the play involves milking cows and churning butter—the heroine declares to her Ole Daddy, "I love you more than biscuits love butter." If you're looking for a laugh-filled evening, join us for a couple of hours of hilarity May 23, 7:30 p.m.; May 24, 2 p.m.; or May 25, 2 p.m. All performances are at SHAPE Entertainment Center, but you can make reservations by calling Barbara Humphrey, 423-5663.



PHOTO: Clifton Humphrey

## Check Customs regs to avoid summer travel problems

**Mannheim, Germany** - People moving to the States this summer should start preparing now, customs officials advise. Find new homes for the things that are banned from import, and apply now for import permits on restricted items since the process can take months.

### Some items prohibited

"Prohibited items include plants, flammable substances, poisons, obscene publications, de-

structive devices, explosives, and meat and meat products such as sausage, paté and salami," said Michael L. Burkert, Customs Program Manager for the U.S. European Command. "Shipping firearms? Ensure you have proof that you owned them in the States or an import permit."

Burkert also explained that other important points to remember are: Owners of vehicles not made to U.S. standards have to

ship them through commercial importers registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency. However, vehicles over 25 years old are exempt from that rule. Mopeds and motorcycles must also meet U.S. safety and pollution standards and be free of dirt.

### Other items need clearance

Wine collections can be shipped separately with some advance coordination with your

transportation office and state alcohol control board; Endangered species items such as ivory and some furs may only be shipped if you can prove you owned them previously in the USA; Caviar may only be shipped if you can prove it was exported legally from the country of origin; Prescription drugs and tobacco products are not allowed in your household goods but may be carried onto the plane when you fly home.

Your state attorney general must approve all imports of gambling devices that must also be registered with the Justice Department in Washington.

### Information is available

Need more details? Get many informative pamphlets from a military customs office or check out the military customs Web site at [www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm).

## That's entertainment

Swing into Spring with The SHAPE International Band, May 26, 7:30 p.m. at SHAPE Entertainment Center. Admission is free, but only 162 seats are available.

## Fun Fest talent needed

Talented members of the community are invited to perform for Fun Fest 2003, on Aug. 30. In the past, entertainment has included choirs, dancers, bands and comedians. Time slots are limited so performers should contact Jacque at SHAPE Entertainment by June 15. Any group wanting to participate in Fun Fest 2003 in any way should attend an organizational meeting May 28, 1 p.m., in the Building 209 conference room. Contact Jeff Rice, 423-4405, for more information or speak with the Community Affairs Branch, 423-4269.

## CHRMA introduces RPA Direct

**Chievres, Belgium** - Civilian Human Resource Management Agency (CHRMA) is implementing "RPA Direct" to improve personnel procedures for managers and commanders.

RPA Direct reduces Requests for Personnel Action processing time by eliminating one step in the approval chain. Under RPA Direct, Requests for Personnel Action flow from the initiator to the Resource Management Office and then directly to the Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC), bypassing the step at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC.)

CHRMA expected full implementation of RPA Direct by May 19, the same date

Benelux CPAC deployed the system. CPACs will provide training to managers, supervisors and liaison personnel in conjunction with the implementation.

RPA Direct benefits all organizations involved not only by saving time in the RPA process, but also by allowing CPACs to concentrate on advising customers at the outset of the process.

"RPA Direct keeps the CPACs focused on serving supervisors and managers, rather than processing," said Jeannie Davis, Director of CHRMA. "Customers should expect more site visits and increased coordination with the CPACs in the beginning of the RPA process."

The GateKeeper Checklist, a questionnaire that accompanies RPAs and provides information needed for processing the action, has been revised for the implementation of RPA Direct. To facilitate the change for both management and the CPOC, additional questions have been added, and responses to some questions now are mandatory. The revision will ensure that the necessary information required to process particular actions is not forgotten, thereby reducing delays caused by incomplete checklists.

For information contact your local CPAC or visit the CHRMA website at [www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil).







# Potpourri

## High school hosts track and field meet

By Marc Robinson

Three Benelux track teams squared off for the final time this season during the May 3 high school track and field meet hosted at SHAPE American High School. At the end of the day, the larger SHAPE men's and women's teams dominated their closest rivals.

The SHAPE men's team won the event outright, outscoring the larger Division 1 Lakenheath team by only 8 points - the equivalent of a single second-place finish. The women's team came in second to Lakenheath, finishing just 12 points back. In both cases, the third pace team trailed the two leaders by nearly 80 points.

There were several noteworthy races and field events during the day, but the most exciting by far was the Men's 1500m race. Alconbury's Steve Ayers edged SHAPE's David Forte by a second after gaining a small lead in the last 100 meters. Forte had led the race from the starting gun, and took a substantial lead with 400 meters left in the race. In the end, Forte admitted that he surged "just a little early" to hold off Ayers.

"I know how he runs now, and this will set up a great race when we see each other in at the European Championships," Forte said.

Currently, Ayers and Forte hold the second and third fastest 1500m times in European high school sports — both are within a second of Ramstein High School front-runner Kenny Grosselin's 4:15.54 time.

Patrick Edwards, another SHAPE standout in the middle-distance events, is only three more seconds back.

Last year the 1500m race came right down to the wire. Patrick Edwards led from the starting gun, followed closely by Kaiserslautern's Thomas Hansen. In the last 80 meters or so, Wuerzburg's Charles Davis sprinted past the front-runners and won by about two seconds. I expect that this year's race will be just as exciting, but I am hoping that Patrick or David wins it. They are both in a great position, and are both superior runners.

On the women's side, senior Amanda Terry led the SHAPE

team with standout performances in the 1500m, 800m, and on the 4 x 800m and 4 x 400m relays. Following closely on her heels in the 800m was SHAPE freshman Stephanie Gonzales, finishing just nine seconds back. Gonzales is Terry's partner on the relays, along with sophomores Traci Williams and Christelle Petrequin.

Stephanie has been a nice surprise for all of us at SHAPE. She is a very determined athlete, and has dropped her times in all her events during every meet this year. At home, she qualified for the European Championships with her 2:39, and she is on the top 4 x 400m and 4 x 800m teams which are among the best three or four relay teams in Europe right now. You have to remember that we have "trained through" all of our meets this year, so the entire team is running a little tired. We are aiming to peak during the Division Championships in two weeks, and we should see our best performances there and during the European Championships



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

SHAPE freshman Stephanie Gonzales has dropped her times in all her events during every meet this year. Coach Marc Robinson calls her "determined."

the following weekend at Wiesbaden.

AFNorth and Brussels both fielded small teams this year, though AFNorth is stronger in field events and sprinting than they have been in recent years. AFNorth's Torrence Nevells gave us a good performance in the long jump, and it took SHAPE's Brandon Glenn all of his jumps to beat him. Miguel Delgado of Brussels and Jonathan Saeteurn of AFNorth also performed well, and AFNorth's 4 x 100 relay team of Terrell Johnson, Ryan Butler, Jonathan Saeteurn, and Torrence Nevells got close to qualifying for the European Championships.

All of the teams gave a great performance, but in a meet like this, it often comes down to numbers. AFNorth and Brussels did well in the field events and sprints — areas where our SHAPE team is a little weaker than I would like.

Going into the Division Championships, AFNorth's small team should give SHAPE a boost by performing well in the sprints and field events. This will hopefully set up a showdown with Division II Track powerhouse Black Forest Academy (BFA) in the mid-distance events. BFA beat us last year by about 30 points. We are a stronger team this year. BFA will have to beat us right where we are the strongest, and AFNorth will definitely help us out by performing well where we can't. We'll be out there cheering for them, I promise.

*Marc Robinson is coach of SHAPE American High School's track team.*

## University of Maryland to hold commencement

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY—The 51st annual commencement exercises for University of Maryland University College (UMUC)—Maryland in Europe will be held May 25, 2 p.m., at the Village Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village. The ceremony is for undergraduate and graduate students earning their degrees from a Maryland in Europe institution.

Maryland in Europe is currently a consortium of five State of Maryland institutions of higher learning. In addition to awarding bachelor's degrees from UMUC, the annual ceremony awards associate degrees from UMUC, College of Southern Maryland, and Montgomery Col-

lege, and master's degrees from Bowie State University and University of Maryland, College Park.

Guest speaker is William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM.)

Kirwan began his new position as chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) last August. Kirwan, the former president of Ohio State University (1998-2002) and University of Maryland, College Park (1989-1998), succeeded Donald N. Langenberg, who retired last year.

"UMUC-Europe is a dynamic member of the University System of Maryland institutions," said

Kirwan. "I look forward to meeting the overseas graduates of UMUC and addressing the service members, their families and DoD civilians during the 2003 Commencement. I am fortunate to be a part of this ceremony honoring the academic success of students who have made a substantial commitment to their family and to their nation."

The University System of Maryland enrolls more than 120,000 students and employs more than 10,000 faculty members. There are 13 institutions within the system, 11 degree-granting and two research institutes. It is governed by

a 17-member Board of Regents. Kirwan is the third chancellor of the system.

A native of Kentucky, Kirwan earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, and holds a master's degree and PhD from Rutgers University. He is a member of several honorary and professional societies including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. He is co-editor of the book, "Advances in Complex Analysis."

Maryland has awarded more than 50,000 degrees in Europe

since 1949 when the university was invited by the military to hold classes overseas. Each year, about 30,000 adult students enroll with Maryland in Europe.

Of the students who will graduate this academic year, approximately 650 will receive the associate degree, 700 the baccalaureate degree, and 120 the master's degree. Some 350 graduates are expected to travel from across Europe and the Middle East to receive their degrees at the ceremony. Maryland in Europe programs now extend to nearly 100 U.S. military sites in 21 countries and reaches students online in the United States, Asia, and Europe.



### Benelux Meteor

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